

The MITAD Tokens of Latin America



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The Mitad Tokens of Latin America

Introduction.

Cuni, 1852. A stranger wanders into a little shop in this small Colombian town somewhere between Gauduas and Bogota, hoping to be able to purchase a loaf of bread and a slab of cheap chocolate.¹ Yes, both are available; the price of each is a fourth of a cuartillo. The stranger makes his purchase, and offers the shopkeeper a cuartillo. "We're very sorry, señor," says the shopkeeper, "but you will have to spend the whole cuartillo — what else would you like to have?" "Why is that?" the stranger asks. "Because, señor, we have no small change to give you." How inconvenient, the stranger thinks, but in good grace he makes some additional purchases and departs — with more than he wanted to buy.

The situation he encountered was hardly an unusual one. If there is any one thing that the observant token collector learns in the pursuit of his hobby, it is that coins of the realm are not always coins of the people. History has shown time and time again that governments, whether autocratic or democratic, too often have been remiss by failing to provide coins in denominations to fit the needs of everyday commerce.

This was an occasional problem in the United States of America in the nineteenth century, but it was a long-standing and continuous problem in parts of Central and South America. Granted, there were some governmental attempts at relieving the problem. For instance, in the 1840-60 period, both Colombia and Venezuela imported limited quantities of copper and bronze coins from England. Then in 1857, the Colombian government, being itself ill-equipped to produce base metal coinage, gave legal tender status to the copper coins of France, Belgium, and the United States. Other countries took similar steps, but it still was not enough. As a consequence, there came into being a variety of small change popularly known as *mitades* (literally "halves").

Some *mitades* were exactly that — legally issued copper coins unofficially cut into halves to produce "coins" of half the value of the smallest official coin, or, in some cases, to increase the amount of small change.² Burzio implies that this was done in Chile³, and Bogen⁴ tells how it was also done in Venezuela to smooth the path of commerce. The evidence can yet be found; below is a well-traveled specimen of one of



those Venezuelan *mitades*, its worn condition attesting to years of hard work. This was cut from the 1 centavo of 1858, itself an import from Heaton's mint

in England.

Bauer states definitely that similar coin cutting was also a practice in Colombia, although this is questionable.⁵ It is true, however, that the word "*mitad*" came to be used in Colombia as a denomination, just as the word "quarter" passed into the vernacular in the USA. In Colombia, the term "*mitad*" was used to refer to any money-form that had the value of half of a cuartillo, or 1/8th of a real (the real was equivalent to 10 cents USA at the time). In fact, when the government imported a quantity of tiny copper-nickel 1¼ centavos from England in 1874 (shown here enlarged two times), these also, having



the equivalent value of 1/8th real, were popularly referred to as *mitades*⁶ (although popular they were not; the people rejected this issue, because of both the size and metal content of the coins).

Despite the cutcoins and the imports, the problem remained. The government mints were not designed to produce the needed low value copper coins, and the imports were far too few to satisfy the need.

Additional ways of coping had to be found, and in Latin America the solution took the form of token coinages, produced by private mints and issued by private enterprise — merchants, haciendas, mining companies, and the like.⁷

¹Issac F. Holton, *New Grenada: Twenty Months in the Andes* (Reprint: Southern Illinois University Press, 1857). Holton describes just such an incident as this during his trek through Colombia.

²A similar thing had earlier taken place in the British colonies in North America, where the Spanish dollars were chopped into eight parts, called "bits." Thus the term "two bits" passed into the vernacular as a denomination (as in the refrain "Shave and a haircut, two bits"). The term "two bits" can still be heard in parts of the United States.

³Humberto F. Burzio, *Diccionario de la Moneda Hispanoamericana* (Santiago: 1958), Vol. II p. 108.

⁴Oscar Gonzalez Bogen, *La Moneda Fragmentada* (Maracaibo: 1982).

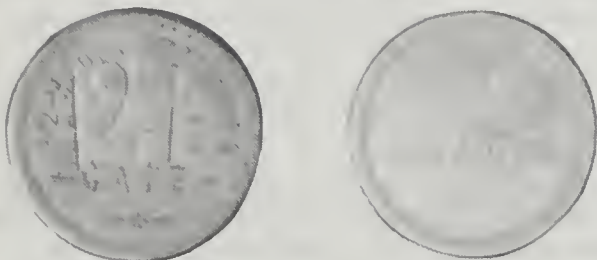
⁵R.W. Bauer, *Haandbog I Mont-, Maal- og Vaegtforhold* (Kjobenhavn: P.G. Philipsens Forlag, 1882), pp. 277-8.

⁶A.M. Barriga Villalba, *Historia de la Casa de Moneda* (Bogota: 1969), Tomo III, pp. 134-5.



Tarea

Pochuta



Cuartilla

Real

These tokens had various values, and were known by a variety of names, depending on where and how they were used. Some were valued according to their special function, such as the *tarea* and the *jornal* for a unit of work, or the *caja* and the *almud* for a unit of product. Many were valued in terms of current official denominations, such as the *real* and the *cuartillo*, which were common on tokens in much of the Latin-American world. Others had purely local names, such as the *tlaco* — the Mexican equivalent of the *medio cuartillo*.

And then, there was the *mitad* token.

The MITAD Tokens — what they are.

Rochester, 1988. An exonumist wanders about a busy flea market on a Sunday afternoon. At one table, his interest is piqued by a curious coin-like object among some oddments in a tray. He notes that it has



the word **MITAD** on one side, and on the other **G. & C.** and the word **SANTANDER**.” What is it?” he asks. “I dunno, my uncle gave it to me along with some foreign coins,” replies the weekend entrepreneur behind the table. A negotiation follows, and, after the princely sum of 75 cents is paid, the exonumist departs — with more than he expected, but perhaps less than he had hoped.

This event and the one in Cuni, separated by time

and space but related in a sort of cause-and-effect way, were real. Neither were isolated events; they had both taken place in various circumstances any number of times. The exonumist had seen such objects before — on price lists, in auction catalogs, and in the collections of friends — but they nevertheless remained a mystery.

Until recently, the largest single listing of MITAD token types was to be found in Eklund’s catalog of Latin American tokens, which included some 58 different entries, of which 24 were in his personal collection.⁸ The catalog at the end of this article lists some 75 confirmed types of MITAD tokens, excluding varieties — which themselves number another 36 or more pieces. There are undoubtedly some MITAD tokens that are unknown to these authors, even though this catalog resulted from a careful search through many numismatic references and collections.

As previously noted, the word *mitad* is a Spanish noun meaning “half.” When used on the currency tokens of Latin America, it became a **denomination**; always meaning “half of a *cuartillo*,” corresponding to 1/8th of a *real*, or about 1-1/4 cents US.

To have validity, any trade or currency token must meet two requirements. First, its value must be clearly indicated. In the case of these tokens, the value was always shown by the word “MITAD” on one side or the other. Usually, that one word was enough to accurately define the denomination. In a few cases, one or more modifiers appeared on the token along with the denomination, which in no case changed its value. These included *Una Mitad*, *Vale Mitad*, and *Vale Mitad Recuero* (sic), this latter meaning “a token with the value of a *mitad*.”

It is interesting to note that although there are both multiple and fractional *real* and *peso* tokens, this is not true of either the *mitad* or *cuartillo* tokens.⁹ The only apparent exception we have noted is the Antonio Bertelon token of Tacna, Peru, which is briefly discussed on page 15.

The second requirement is that the identity of the issuer must somehow be made known to the user. In the usual case, currency tokens only have value at the location of the issuing business, whether it be a *hacienda*, a *tienda* or a *cafetal*.

Because the tokens were employed in relatively confined areas, it was enough for just the initials of the

⁸This is a lesson that collectors who limit themselves to coins of the realm generally miss, thinking that tokens are something to be shunned — something beneath the dignity of the true numismatist! They somehow fail to realize that the basic purpose of coins is to facilitate commerce — which is also the *sine qua non* of the trade token.

⁹O.P. Eklund, *Catalog of Mexico, Central & South Am. Tokens*. This unpublished hand-written manuscript is in the library of the American Numismatic Society in New York.

⁷There are whole and fractional *cuartilla* tokens, but these are not denominations. The feminine form, “*cuartilla*,” refers to a volumetric or weight measure; the masculine form “*cuartillo*” is a denomination.

issuer to appear on the token, which is the case for about half of all MITAD tokens. In many instances, only a single word appears on the obverse of the token. A case in point is the I2 token, on which is



found only the word "ISLA." This can be assumed to be the family name of the issuer, who would normally be known to all those living in the area at the time, for whom no further identification would be required.

Because the information needed on the token was so limited, most MITAD tokens are "mavericks," giving little or no indication to a stranger as to where or by whom the tokens were issued. In a relatively small number of cases, the location of the issuer, in addition to his identity, is shown on the token. These few cases have been of primary help in attributing the MITAD tokens.

Because the value was stated to be just one MITAD, the size, weight, and metal content of the tokens did not really matter. Accordingly, their weights vary from over 10 grams to just over 1 gram, and their diameters from almost 30 mm to under 18 mm. In actual practice, the diameters of the MITAD tokens roughly corresponded to the size of the equivalent contemporary national currency, whether or not there were actual pieces in circulation. The metals used were generally brass or bronze.

Where They Were Used.

None of the 75 listed MITAD types discloses explicitly its country of origin. In fact, few show any form of location. These facts beg the question: How can these tokens be confidently assigned to any specific area, particularly inasmuch as, until recently, the few catalogs which list any of them attribute them to several countries.

There are, however, enough supporting facts to enable a judgment to be made. First, every city named on a MITAD token could be Colombian. With particular reference to Latin America, these cities: Guamo, Mompos, Santander, Sincelejo, and Zambrano are only in Colombia. Corozal is a city of Belize and Honduras, as well as Colombia. Bucaramanga, named on the possible MITAD token T3, might be either Chile or Colombia, but in this case it is known to be the latter. Of all these, the only common country is Colombia.

Now consider the inferred locations. Two sources yield very useful information. First, the book *Barranquilla su Pasado y su Presente* (Barranquilla: 1922), by Jose Ramon Vergara and Fernando E. Baena, shows these family names — all of which are found on MITAD tokens — as being prominent in the commercial life of that city in the 1800's: Arjona, Chapman, de Castro, Laza Grau,

Hoyer, Isla, Pellet, Rosa, Velez, Vergara, and Vengoechea.

With even greater specificity, the following businesses are identified in the *Commercial Directory of the American Republics*, issued by the USA Department of Commerce in 1897-8: Rafael Ballestas, a general store in Calamar, Bolivar; Ferran Hermanos and Llamas Hermanos, general stores in Barranquilla; Manuel G. Angulo, a general merchant in Santa Marta, Magdalena; and Simon Alandete, manufacturer of soap and candles in Cartagena, where the Alandete brothers operated a general store. In addition, Trinidad Parra de Orozco operated a dairy business in Bucaramanga, Eduardo C. Gerlein was a merchant in Barranquilla, and general stores were operated by persons named Miranda in both Carmen and Palmito in the Department of Bolivar. Other coincidences of names can be cited.

Finally, it is noted that the 1897 edition of the *Anuario del Comercio* by Bailly-Bailliere e Hijos of Madrid, in its listing of principal stores in the Spanish world, showed these names for Colombia, among others: Barranquilla: Pedro Celestino Angulo; Bucaramanga: D. Martinez; and Cartagena: J.F. Velez. The only other name in that listing coincident with any MITAD tokens was Roberto Miranda of Santiago, Chile; there were none from Peru, Venezuela, or any other Latin American country. These coincidences are too significant to ignore.

Many of the MITAD tokens show only the initials of the issuer, making attribution difficult. In a few cases the initials are accompanied by a place name, which in most cases is "SANTANDER." Assuming these tokens to be only from Latin America, then SANTANDER could only be either a town, a province, or a department of Colombia. But which — and how to tell?

The belief exists among some South American collectors that all of the SANTANDER/MITAD tokens relate to tobacco plantations. However, a listing in the above mentioned 1897-8 commercial directory leads to the likely conclusion that the G.R.Q./SANTANDER token (G3) was issued by one Guillermo R. Quin, whose enterprises included a distillery, a hardware business, and an import & export business — all in the city of Ocaña in the Department of Santander. On similar grounds, the J.R.L./SANTANDER token (J9) was likely issued by Jose R. Lemas, who also operated a distillery in Ocaña. Neither are therein identified with tobacco plantations. From this, it can be inferred that Santander, as a place name on the MITAD tokens, generally refers to the Department, but does not necessarily imply anything about the business of the issuer.

Coupled with the significant coincidence of the above names and businesses is the point that only one of the names on the MITAD tokens has been found in commercial directories listing businesses in other Latin American countries — but that name was also found in the Colombian listings.

Map of Colombia
(Showing locations of MITAD issuers)
Circa 1890



Everything considered, and despite the fact that Eklund, following the lead of Fonrobert, attributed all of the MITAD mavericks to Callao in Peru, the authors believe it reasonable to conclude that all MITAD tokens can actually be attributed to Colombia, and more specifically to the departments of Atlantico, Magdalena, Santander (including Norte de Santander), Bolivar, Sucre, and Tolima. Excepting Tolima, these departments, along with Cesar and La Guajira, constitute the northern-most part of Colombia.

When They Were Used.

A few of the MITAD tokens are dated, their dates ranging from the earliest (M4a) of 1838 to the latest (J5) of 1880.¹⁰ The number of dated pieces (12) are too few for statistical analysis, but they nevertheless average out to about 1866. It would appear that the peak of the use of MITAD tokens took place in the period 1860-1890, considering that a relatively small quantity of copper 1/20th and 1/10th reals were imported by Colombia in 1847 and that there were no further copper coinages until early in the twentieth century.

In addition to the actual token dates, the evidence of early auction and other catalogs throws some light on their minimum possible age. The Fonrobert sale of 1878 included twelve MITAD tokens, all of which must therefore have already been in use by 1878. The Batty catalog adds another five tokens to that early group. Neumann further increases our knowledge, and so from these and other sources, we can see that the MITAD tokens had to be at least as old as shown in the Age Chart. In there, we have given only the first catalog listing for each token.

Note that all dated tokens (except M4) are shown by the highlighted entries. Their dates do not necessarily correspond to their issue dates. They could, for instance, relate to the founding dates of the issuing businesses, though no such instances have been specifically identified.

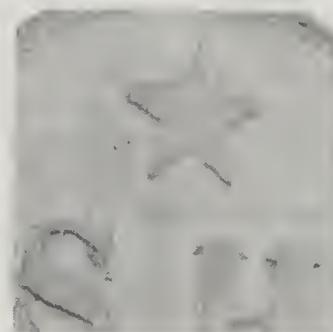
It is interesting to note that until 1911, no Latin American numismatic publication listed any MITAD tokens. In that year a catalog was published in Venezuela listing 157 tokens, but only one MITAD — the RIVES SANTANDER CARMEN token of 1880.¹¹

One rough indication of issue date would appear to be the size of the tokens. It is noted that none dated after 1856 exceeds 24mm, and no token dated 1856 or earlier is less than 24mm. It is probably more than mere coincidence that this corresponds with the change in the United States from large to small cents. Furthermore, we posit that tokens of 28mm or more were struck in the period 1845-1855. It may therefore follow that tokens from 24 to 28 mm were struck just in the years around 1855.

As a very broad generalization, tokens larger than 24mm were apparently struck before 1860, the tokens of 22-24mm appear to have been struck in the period 1860-80, and tokens below 21mm seem to relate to the period after 1880 or so.

Iconography.

MITAD tokens, in general, are noted more for the terseness of their inscriptions and the scarcity of symbols than otherwise. They were clearly not intended to be art forms — instead, they were working pieces of unofficial currency in the absence of small coins. Nevertheless, there are a few which exhibit symbols which must have been deliberately chosen by the issuer.



For instance, a large five-point star adorns the obverse or reverse of a number of tokens (B1, F3, I1, M7, M13, P3, R3, S1, S4, and T1). This symbol is not featured on any Colombian coins. It has appeared prominently on the coins of both Chile and Paraguay, but this fact is apparently unrelated to the star on the MITAD tokens. Perhaps a clue to its meaning is to be found on the Colombian token of the Hacienda de Perodias (Bernal No. 357).¹² On the reverse of this coffee plantation token is a similar large five-pointed star, suggesting the possibility that the similarly adorned MITAD tokens were also used on coffee plantations. Until more evidence is found, however, this link must be viewed with suspicion.



M7

¹⁰The earliest dated MITAD token, M4a, bears the date 1838. These were overstruck on HT tokens dated 1841, but because the host tokens were actually struck in 1837, 1838 could be the actual date of striking of the M4 tokens.

¹¹Manuel Landaeta Rosales, *Coleccion de Medallas, Monedas y Fichas de Manuel Landaeta Rosales* (Caracas: 1911).

¹²Enrique Bernal M., *Fichas de Colombia Numismalla* (Caracas: 1988), p. 76.

Age Chart of Mitad Tokens

(Showing their latest possible dates of issue)

1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9
4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	0	1
5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	5	0	0
Catalogs:				Ne		F	By	W ¹	Sc	W ²	Ux	
				V1		A2	B1	A3	A1	D5	A5	
						D3	J2	E1	D2	G3	C2	
						F3	M2	L4	M12	I1	G2	
						I2	M10	M2	R1	J1	J4	
						M4	S1	P2	S3	M13	J6	
						M11				R3	L2	
						P3				U1	L3	
						R2					M3	
						S2					M5	
						S4						
						V2						
J8		A2				R4		C4		M13		
		A4				S3		J5				
			D1					R5				
			D3									

Sources:

The indicated catalog references were originally published as follows:

- Ne J. Neumann, *Beschreibung Der Bekanntesten Kupfermunzen*, Vol. III (Prague: 1863).
- F *Die Jules Fonrobert'sche Sammlung Oberseeischer Munzen und Medaillen*, compiled by Adolph Weyl, Berlin, 1878.
- By D.T. Batty, *Batty's Catalogue of the Copper Coinage of Great Britain, Ireland, etc.* (Manchester: 1868-1898).
- W¹ *Auktions-Katalog No. 80*, by Adolph Weyl, Berlin, January 1887.
- Sc *Catalog No. 4, Coins, Medals and Tokens of Central America, West Indies and South America*, by J.W. Scott, February 1892.
- W² *Auktions-Katalog No. 147*, by Adolph Weyl, Berlin, 1899.
- Ux *Sammlung des Herrn Georg F. Ulex - Hamburg* (Frankfurt: 1908) (Reprinted by Numismatics International, 1981).

The M.F. / / MITAD token (M7), besides the star, has a caduceus on the obverse, and a small ship on the reverse. The caduceus, a winged staff with intertwined serpents, often associated with the practice of medicine, is also associated with Hermes, the patron saint of merchants. On this token its significance is likely only a symbolic reference to trade.

A ship dominates the reverses of both the Manuel Ma Pla (M4) and MEDRANO (M6) tokens. In the former case, it is probable that this device was chosen to reflect the importance of Cartagena as a



seaport — which city was named on the token. That same significance may be the reason a ship appears

on the reverse of both the **MEDRANO** and **M.F.** tokens, although no known evidence reinforces such a supposition.



The rare **EL PROGRESO** token (E2) features a primitive steam locomotive and tender on its obverse. This suggests a transportation association, but no railroad by that name is recorded for Colombia. A street railway is a possible alternative; there is a street in Barranquilla named Progreso, on which there was a street railway in the 1850s.



The radiate surface which adorns the reverse of the **JOSÉ M. RUIZ** token (J8) has been a prominent symbol on the coins of several South American countries, including Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Uruguay. On this token from Mompos, it is thought to signify the independence of the South American countries — and to have no direct relation with the business of the issuer.



The cannon on the **MANUEL ANGULO** token (M3) is used as a rebus, being an integral part of the inscribed location “Corner of the green cannon.” This is the one instance where the facts are known. The cannon is a commemorative marker near the site where Simon Bolivar, hero of the revolution, resided for three weeks in November of 1830.

The mortar and pestle, as seen on the **M.R** (M11)



and **RAFAEL BALLESTAS** tokens, is commonly used to suggest a pharmacy (farmacia), as indeed it may here. On the token of **M & V** (M12) is a beaker, which may well have the same connotation. Rafael Ballestas is known to have operated a general store in Calamar, Bolivar, and could possibly have had a pharmacy under the same roof. In neither of the other cases, however, have we been able to identify the specific businesses that issued those tokens.



On the token of **S. ALANDETI** (S2) is the figure of a cock. The only symbolism we have inferred about this device is one of industriousness — suggested by the early rising habit of the rooster — although it is conceivable that it signifies a poultry market (gallinero), or — less likely — a used-clothing store.



Even less significance is attached to the upraised torch on the **SANTANDER** token (S3). A very similar symbol appeared on the 1937 coins of Bolivia, in which instance it was probably a symbol of victory. What it might mean on this token of Santander can only be guessed.

One might wonder why there are so few symbols on these MITAD tokens. In point of fact, however, the tokens were intended to circulate in very restricted areas — in which most if not all of the literate population could recognize the source of the token by nothing more than the issuer's initials, and would automatically know the business with which the issuer was associated. That is probably why it was not usually thought necessary to include an indication of location on the tokens. As said, the minimum information needed on these currency tokens was the identification of the issuer and the value of the token — and that minimum is what most, if not all of them, provide.

Sources of the MITAD Tokens.

Strangely, not a single one of the MITAD tokens shows the mark of a manufacturer. Nevertheless, it is possible to derive some evidence of source from an examination of the tokens themselves.

A. In studying the MITAD tokens, one's attention is immediately drawn to a group within which are apparant similarities of size, metal, and style. These include the following:

E5 and E5a	— ESPINOSA + OLIER,
J8	— JOSÉ M. RUIZ,
M3 and M3a	— MANUEL ANGULO,
M4a-d	— Manuel Ma Pla,
V1 and V1a-d	— VELEZ MATOS.

The similarities shared by these tokens are as follows:

- All are bronze pieces with diameters of 28 to 30mm,
- All are rimless and have borders of wide denticles,
- All display the denomination **VALE MITAD**, a form used only on six other MITAD tokens.

Three of the five types exist as overstrikes on so-called Hard Times tokens.¹³ These host tokens were privately issued in large numbers in the U.S.A. in the 1830-45 period to meet a critical need for small change, and lost all but their intrinsic metal value around 1845 or so when they were no longer either accepted by the people or redeemed by the issuers. The known examples of overstrikes are listed in Catalog Section III-4, but there are probably still others as yet unidentified.

One such piece is the Manuel Ma Pla MITAD token (M4c). It was overstruck on a Low No. 97 HTT, shown at right above. In center is a drawing¹⁴ showing the residual details on the MITAD token by which the HTT can be identified.

This Hard Times token is said to have been struck in the Waterbury, Connecticut mint of the Scovill Manufacturing Company, as were several other Hard Times tokens on which MITAD tokens were overstruck.¹⁵ In fact, only one observed overstrike is on a HTT known to have been produced by another manufacturer. Nevertheless, the only source inference



we have drawn is that these MITAD tokens were probably produced in the United States, and likely by more than one minting firm (but possibly including Scovill).

This latter conclusion is deduced from the fact that no die linkages have been observed between any of the five types which constitute this group. There are clear differences in workmanship and quality of strike within the group, suggesting sources of varying capabilities.

Based on die linkages, however, it can be definitely stated that for each type, whoever produced the overstruck pieces also produced the corresponding original planchet pieces, which were struck from the same dies but on new (lighter) planchets.¹⁶ Furthermore, the new planchet pieces were probably made to fill a second order for these tokens, perhaps in the early 1850s, whereas the overstruck pieces were probably made in the 1840s.

In a somewhat more positive vein, there is a small group of tokens in the collections of the American Numismatic Society which are therein identified as having been donated by Mr. O.G. Schilke

¹³For a description of these and the Low Numbers which are referenced in the catalog, see Russell Rulau, *Hard Times Tokens*, 3rd ed. (Iola, Wisconsin: Krause Publications, 1987).

¹⁴E.C. Leslie, "Colombia, South America Merchant Tokens Struck over United States Hard Times Tokens," *TAMS Journal*, August, 1973, pp. 132-5. The drawing shown here was made by Mr. Leslie.

¹⁵See "J.M.L. & W.H. Scovill," *The Numismatist*, July, 1912, p. 236, which records that Scovill struck these HTTs: Low Nos. 58, 95, 110, and 111, among others.

¹⁶A quick examination can show if one of these tokens was an overstrike. If the denticles exhibit obvious distortion toward the edge of the token, it was caused by the narrow raised rim of the underlying HTT. If there is no such distortion, a plain planchet was probably used. In addition, the overstrikes will be about 9-11 gms, versus 6-8 gms for the plain planchet pieces, although some variation from these weights may be noted.

in March of 1941, who stated at the time that they were all struck by the Scovill Mint. They are:

R1 RAFAEL BALLESTAS S4b S.H.
P3 P.M.U. V3 VERGARA
F3a. F.R.

Because of the uniformly FDC condition of the tokens, their excellent workmanship, and the fact that trial or specimen strikes of some were produced in copper-nickel as well as both brass and bronze, the authors consider their attribution to Scovill to be reasonable. It is possible that Mr. Schilke obtained this group directly from the Scovill Mint, which at least in 1912 still had an extensive collection in Waterbury.

One further piece of evidence would appear to contribute the final proof of Scovill's participation. There exists in the United States a collection¹⁷ consisting of 69 Latin American tokens, allegedly the property of a former executive of Scovill, all of which are proofs or are in uncirculated condition. They exhibit marked similarities of die work and strike. Included in the collection are the following MITAD tokens:

A2 AM DE.LA CUADRA	R1 RAFAEL BALLESTAS
A2a Same, but bronze	R1a Same, but bronze
E6 E.T.B. COROZAL	R2a R.B.
F3a F.R.	S2 S. ALANDETI
M11 M.R.	S4b S.H.
P3 P.M.U.	V3a VERGARA

Lending further credance to the Scovill attribution is the fact that many of the above tokens, plus three additional pieces, can be interrelated by their die links. They are as follows:

- A4 — A.M. MERLANO (letter punches link with A2 and M11),¹⁸
- J2 — J.D. (Reverse die common with E6, F3a, P3, and S4b),
- V2 — VENGOECHEA (Reverse die is common with V3),
- S2 — S. ALANDETI (Obverse rose ornaments and MITAD letter punches identical with those on E6, F3a, P3, and S4b).

In summary, it appears certain that Scovill was the source for as many as 13 of the MITAD types listed in the catalog, and it is entirely possible that still other MITAD tokens were produced by that same firm. E.P. COROZAL (E3) is a likely candidate, based on the similarity of the word COROZAL on E3 and E6.

B. It can also be shown that at least two of the MITAD tokens were ordered from England, where a number of competent workshops were producing trade tokens in the latter half of the last century. In his catalog of Britain's copper coinage, Batty (see page 9) lists at least seven different MITAD tokens, probably on the assumption that because they were found in England, they were intended for some British

possession. Apparently he did not consider the equally likely assumption that they may have been made in England for some foreign customer. His listings include these:

B1 B.C.	M10 M.P.	S1 S.A.
J2 J.D.	M11 M.R	S4 S.H.
M2 M ANGULO		

Note that Batty listed both the J2 (J.D.) and M11 (M.R) tokens, which we have shown can be reliably attributed to Scovill. Of the others in Batty's listing, only the B.C. and S.A. tokens can be interlinked by their die characteristics.

There are, nevertheless, some definite indications of British sources. It can be shown that the firm of R.H. Heaton & Sons of Birmingham produced at least one of the three varieties of token S4 (S.H.) This is evidenced by the existence of a muled piece (S4c) having the obverse of S4 paired with the obverse of a CHATLAPORE SYLHET (Assam) tea plantation token (Pridmore 21).¹⁹ The Heaton Orderbook²⁰



records an order of 1886 for the SYLHET token, which suggests that Heaton must have produced S4.

That same Orderbook shows an order dated 11 August 1879 from an agent in Birmingham for a quantity of "...weight checks in all respects similar to pattern." The accompanying rubbing shows the order to have been for the Star / F.R. / / MITAD token. The order goes on to say: "Check is of a darker color

¹⁷This collection is the property of Mr. Russell Rulau.

¹⁸These present an interesting picture of progressive die deterioration. When the M letter punch was used in 1855 for the reverse die of the A2 token, it was apparently in good condition. When it was next used for the obverse die of A2, it exhibited some small displacement in the right slant-line element of M.

That same displacement, slightly advanced, appears on the M of MITAD on the reverse of the M11 token. Producing that die must have been its undoing, because when the punch was next used for the M of M.R on the M11 obverse die, a clear break in the slanted line had taken place. That same break, still further advanced, shows up on the M of MITAD on the reverse of the A4 token produced in 1856. From this, it might logically be concluded that the M11 token (M.R / / MITAD) was produced in either 1855 or 1856.

¹⁹F. Pridmore, *The Coins of the British Commonwealth of Nations* (London: Spink & Son, 1980), Part 4, Vol. II, p. 208.

²⁰This document is in the files of The Birmingham Mint, Ltd., a successor company to Heaton's.

than brass and it is necessary to supply checks to sample."

A comparison of the S.H. token mentioned earlier with the two known F.R. tokens shows that S4 and F3 share a common reverse die, proving both to be Heaton products. Furthermore, F3 is a bronze piece — of a "darker color" than brass — and thus in accord with the order terms.

Rounding out this bit of detective work, it is noted that there was an F.R. token included in the Fonrobert sale of 1878.²¹ Since this was too early to have been the Heaton product, it must have been the piece struck by Scovill, and possibly the "sample" referred to in the Heaton order. A number of earlier orders may also have been placed on Heaton's but since their Orderbook records are missing for the years prior to 1876, this cannot be proved.

C. The preceding are the only source inferences that have so far been identified. For sake of completeness, however, it should be added that die linkages show the following tokens to have common sources:

D1 — DAVID BARRAZA, D3 — D.J. DE CASTRO.

Reverse dies are identical.

M5 — MD, M12 — M & V.

Reverse dies are identical. Note cud at 2 o'clock.

H1 — HOYER, H1a — HOYER, J1 — J. CHAPMAN., P2 — PELLET.

All share the same reverse die; the quatrefoil ornaments are diagnostic.

J1a — J. CHAPMAN, M8 — MIRANDA.

These share the same reverse die, which differs from the one used for the preceding group.

F2 — FERRAN, L3 — LLAMAS.

These share the same reverse die. Note, however, that although the style and arrangement of L3 and L3a are alike, the dies and letter punches that were used were different, suggesting not only a different issue but a different source.

F4 — F.U.S., F5 — F.W.S., G3 — G.R.Q.

These share a common reverse die. The same letter punch set was used for the obverses of F4 and G3. However, different letter punches were used when F.W.S. was repunched over the original F.U.S. obverse die — suggesting that F4 may have been an error die. This possibility is supported by the much greater rarity of the F4 tokens. It is to be noted that the E4 and J9 tokens, although identical in style with the above three tokens, were produced with different letter and ornament punches.

M9 — M N J G, J3 — JHD.

These share a common reverse die (note extra metal at left of the bottom serif of the T of MITAD). The same letter punches seem to have been used on these as on the G2 and T2 tokens (see below), but the dies are not common.

G2 — G. J. & Co, T2 — T.N.

These appear to share a common reverse die, although the specimens examined by the authors are not sharp enough to give positive assurance of commonality.

F1 — F.B. Malo, P1 — PEDRO LAZA GRAU, M1 — Ma De La C. ECHAVEZ.

These share a common reverse die. Also, the same letter-punch set was used for the obverses of M1 and P1.

S1 — S.A., B1a — B.C., B1 — B.C.

A distorted bead at 4 o'clock proves that the S1 and B1a reverses were produced by the same die. The same letter-punches were used for the two B.C. varieties.

It is obvious that there is much yet to be learned about the source of many of the MITAD tokens. The authors hope that these observations will spur further research into this intriguing and little known area.

Quantities of MITAD Tokens.

One of the most important results of this study of MITAD tokens is that, for the first time, it throws some light on the quantities of tokens that were used by these enterprises. Our conclusions are based on one very pertinent and specific piece of evidence, and on several somewhat parallel situations.

That specific piece of evidence is the 1879 order on R.H. Heaton & Sons for F.R. / / MITAD tokens (F3). The order was for 250 pounds of tokens, which average about 4.07 grams each. Therefore the shipment must have totalled about 22,900 pieces. This would appear to be a relatively large order, but its implications become even more significant in light of the fact that this was the second order for that token, the first having been placed on Scovill. This would suggest that issuer F.R. found the need for perhaps 40,000 or more of these particular tokens.

From the catalog of MITAD token varieties, it can be seen that several other tokens involved multiple issues. All of the following, and probably still others, had at least two striking: B.C. (B1 & B1a), ESPINOSA OLIER (E5 & E5a), J. CHAPMAN (J1 & J1a), JHD (J3 & J3a), J.M GOMES (J6 & J6a), LLAMAS Hs (L3 & L3a), M ANGULO (M2, M2a, M2b), and R.E. (R3 & R3a). Based on the data accumulated by the authors to establish the rarity ratings, it would not be unrealistic to impute total order quantities to most of the above consistent with those of the F.R. token. The one exception might be the J6 token, to which we have given a rarity rating of "rare."

The two RIVES tokens, R4 and R5, are clearly for the same business, and here we see that one order was placed in 1872 and the second in 1880. If the business did not change in the meantime, which seems likely based on the similarity of the two issues, then either most of the original issue was somehow

²¹See Sources, page 9.

lost to the business in that eight year period, or the growth of the business required an extra supply. Chances are that elements of both causes were involved.

The study of die varieties shows that there were probably three separate orders for the S.H. (S4) token: one to Heaton, one to Scovill, and the third to an as yet unidentified source. Considering the economics of purchasing tokens from foreign sources, where the costs have to include agents' commissions and freight, in addition to the cost of dies and normal production costs, it seems likely that the total quantity involved in these three issues exceeded 50,000 pieces. This conclusion is also consistent with our rarity observations.

To have a feel for the significance of the quantities implied by all of the foregoing, consider this. In 1874, for the first time in 25 years, the Colombian government caused the issue of a minor coinage denominated less than $\frac{1}{4}$ real. 2,400,000 copper-nickel coins of $1\frac{1}{4}$ centavo denomination were procured from foreign mints and distributed among the departments. For the whole of the Department of Bolivar, 225,000 pieces were allotted.

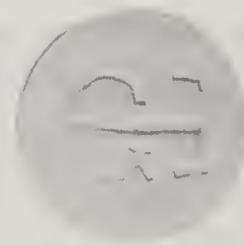
Contrast that quantity with the nearly 23,000 MITAD tokens — of the same value in trade — that were ordered by F.R. in 1879 for use by a single commercial establishment, and one can readily see why merchants felt it necessary to obtain their own supply of small change. It made little difference that those official "mitades" were not accepted. Even if they had been, their quantities were too small to make any significant contribution to the needs of commerce.

The import of this part of the study is twofold. First, the large quantities that were evidently involved show that these MITAD tokens were serious pieces of "working" currency, having a well-defined economic function in the commercial life of the northern part of Colombia. Second, the loss rate seems quite high for an area which was probably devoid of collectors, and where hoarding — at least of material such as this — should not have been a factor. Many undoubtedly walked off in the pockets of passing strangers, but many more must have been simply lost, or used for other purposes.

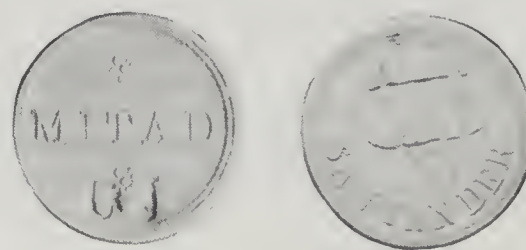
Counterstamps on MITAD Tokens.


Counterstamps on Latin American tokens present a very difficult study problem for two reasons. First, there is likely to be little or no written information available by means of which their source and purpose can be determined. Second, their necessarily terse nature discloses hardly any clues as to their intent. As a guessing game, such counterstamps are particularly unrewarding. For that reason, we will confine ourselves herein to only those observations which can be derived from the happy circumstance of having what is probably a representative group available for study.

Many counterstamps — perhaps most — are probably frivolous concoctions whose purposes are entirely unrelated to the usual functions of the host pieces. A case in point may likely be G1b (G. & C. SANTANDER).



Here the reverse of the G1 token has been ground flat and stamped with the monogram initials GT or TG. This very likely could have been made to be carried as a pocket piece — it is tempting to guess by the G half of the partnership of G & C, except that there is a similar monogram on the G3a token.



Although several different MITAD tokens have been found to have counterstamps, it is particularly on the R3 — R.E. SANTANDER token that counterstamps seem to have some serious purpose. Two such counterstamps have been especially noted. The initials GJ appear with some frequency, either alone or in combination with other counterstamps. The second counterstamp, , appears to be a symbol of some kind, rather than a monogram. On all pieces so far observed, the GJ is a reverse counterstamp, and the symbol is an obverse counterstamp. In one case, shown above, both counterstamps are noted on the same piece.

The consistent placement, and the numbers observed, clearly bespeak some purposeful intent. One possibility seems to fit the circumstances. It is that G.J. were the initials of a successor to R.E. in the business for which the tokens were employed. Because the counterstamps have only been observed on the R3 variety, one might suppose that the R3a tokens were ordered first, and when used up were replaced by the R3 tokens. Before these were depleted, G.J. took over the business and counterstamped with his own initials those that were left.

There is one other observation that can be drawn from a study of the counterstamped MITAD tokens. It is that in no case except two have specific counterstamps been found on more than one token type. One exception has already been mentioned. The second exception is, coincidentally, a GJ counterstamp on an S3 — SANTANDER token. It was stamped with the same letter punches that were used to produce the GJ counterstamps on the R3a tokens. We can suggest no reason for this.

It is by now apparent to the reader that the area of counterstamps is one which cries out for serious research. One knows instinctively that there are rational explanations to be found for most of the

counterstamps that are seen on MITAD tokens — if only one could dig deeply enough.

Metals Used for MITAD Tokens.

So far as we have been able to determine, the only metals used for the circulating MITAD tokens were brass and either copper or bronze. Some specimen pieces were struck in copper-nickel, but none for circulation. No aluminum tokens have been found, probably because this metal was relatively more costly than copper alloys during the time MITAD tokens were in use.

Brass was the most popular metal — which was probably more a reflection of the preference of the makers than of the issuers. The only actual order we have found — for the F.R. token from the Heaton Mint — did not specify the metal, so the choice of bronze in that case was Heaton's — to meet the color requirement.

It is to be noted that the Colombian government banned the use of nickel for coins, except as a war emergency measure, by edict of 1894. This law probably reflected a popular bias against that metal (note that the copper-nickel coins of 1874 were not accepted by the people), which may explain why no circulating MITAD tokens were produced in nickel or copper-nickel.

The MITAD Exception.

Before concluding this article, one additional token must be mentioned. It is that one identified in the Eklund catalog²² as No. 1559, and in Neumann²³ as No. 22493:

ANTONIO BERTELON/TACNA / /
VALE/MITAD/DE UN/CUARTILLO



This token is not listed as a MITAD token because the word **mitad** is used here, not as a denomination, but simply to indicate that the token is “half of a cuartillo.” In two other respects, it differs from the listed MITAD tokens:

- a) It is from Peru; the only one definitely **not** from Colombia.
- b) It is the only one known to have a companion piece of twice its stated value; **vale un cuartillo** (see Ek1560).

No other Peruvian tokens reported in the literature bear the word MITAD, either alone as a denomination as on the Colombian tokens, or as a modifier of a denomination as on the above token. Why it was used in this case, in preference to the usual **Medio Cuartillo**, must be considered a whim of the issuer.

Everything considered, this Peruvian token would seem to be the exception that proves the rule that the

MITAD tokens were peculiar to Colombia.

Summary:

The MITAD tokens, having the value of 1/8 of a real (=1/2 of a cuartillo), were a grass-roots answer in Colombia in the period 1840 to 1900 to a continuing and severe shortage of small-value coins. They were issued in relatively large quantities by private businesses, principally in the northern-most departments of Colombia, where they became a very acceptable substitute for coins of the realm.

Acknowledgements:

The authors are indebted to Jerry Schimmel, Dana Roberts, Herman Blanton, David Henkle, Ernesto Melgar, Alberto Losano, Arcelio Gomez, Eduardo Losano, Jose Carvajal, Georgias Garriga A. Gonzalez, and Nely Filograso for information regarding their collections of MITAD tokens; to Jørgen Smød, Antonio E. Pedraza, and Dana Roberts for their helpful suggestions and acute insights; to Russell Rulau for information on probable Scovill issues, to Francis Campbell for his ungrudging help in Library research; and especially to Elwin Leslie, who not only provided significant information, but whose personal collection of MITAD tokens became the major basis of this catalog. Photographs were provided by the American Numismatic Society and by the Smithsonian Institution. Many others were also generous with their help; we thank them all.

²²See Sources, page 9.

²³Ibid.

Catalog of MITAD Tokens

The following pages constitute a catalog of all the MITAD tokens known to these authors, arranged in several sections as follows:

I Catalog of MITAD Token Types: These include all of those MITAD token types which have been actually seen by the authors, plus (in a few instances) those which have been reliably reported. In all cases, types are distinguished from each other by word or name differences.

II Possible but Unconfirmed MITAD Token Types: These include tokens which could be MITAD types, but for which there is insufficient evidence to justify their inclusion in Section I.

III Catalog of MITAD Token Varieties: These vary from the corresponding types by minor differences, which are categorized as follows:

1. Die Varieties
2. Metal Varieties
3. Mules
4. Overstrikes
5. Counterstamps

IV Doubtful MITAD Token Types: Here are included those tokens which have been reported in various publications, but which — for stated reasons — the authors know or believe do not exist as MITAD tokens.

Catalog Information.

The weights and diameters of MITAD tokens have been observed to vary considerably, even between nominally uncirculated specimens of a type. Where several pieces of a type have been available for measurement, the one with the heaviest weight was recorded.

The metals shown for each token are based on a combination of specific gravity and color. Tokens with a yellow color are generally brass (Br). Those of a copper color are usually bronze (Ae) excepting a few which, based on specific gravity tests, are definitely copper (Cu). Those which the authors have not personally inspected are shown as they appear in the literature — but it is expected that most which are listed as copper are, in fact, bronze.

The obverse-reverse orientation is shown by two vertical parallel arrows. Where both arrows are pointed upward, the orientation is “medal” turn; i.e., both sides read correctly if the token is rotated about its vertical axis. Conversely, if the arrows point in opposite directions, the token is “coin” turn.

In some cases, an estimated period of issue is shown; e.g., “[ca 1840s]” indicates the conclusion by the authors that the token was probably issued during the period 1840-1849. In another form, “[◀1870]” indicates that the token had to have been issued before 1870. The basis for these deductions is explained in the text.

The references shown for each of the tokens are catalogs issued before 1910 which include MITAD tokens. The key to the references will be found in the Age Chart notes on page 9.

As regards attribution, either to issuer or location, where the word “possibly” is used, it indicates that there is **some** evidence to support the attribution, but too little to make a definite assignment. The locational attributions given in the cited references have been entirely omitted in this catalog, because they have been found to be generally unreliable. In those cases where the references have given the surnames of issuers identified only by their initials on the tokens, we have so noted in the catalog, although we have found no evidence to support most of these attributions.

Note that all but three MITAD tokens have plain edges, the exceptions being the Arjona (A5), L.C. (L1), and possibly some specimens of the G. & C. (G1) and R.E. (R3) tokens.

The rarity estimates shown are just that — estimates. They represent the subjective judgment of the authors, and are based on a total sample of over 600 MITAD tokens which reside in major collections in Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, the United States and elsewhere (see Acknowledgements, page 15). The four-part rarity scale was constructed as follows:

Very rare: 0 or 1 piece known (both types and varieties),

Rare: 2 to 4 pieces known (both types and varieties),

Scarce: 5 to 9 pieces known (both types and varieties),





Common: Over 9 pieces known (both types and varieties).

It should be noted, however, that in general terms, no MITAD tokens are commonly found on lists of tokens being offered for sale. Thus, in the usual sense, all are scarce at best.

I — Catalog of MITAD Token Types

No.	Description	Gms	Metal	mm
-----	-------------	-----	-------	----



A1	A.A. de HOYOS *ZAMBRANO *			
	around  /  MITAD / 	3.5	Ae	23.4 
	[◀1892] References: Ek1234, Sc859. Department of Bolivar. This token, an oval piece 23.4x19.3mm, is the only non-round type. Rare.			



A2 AM/DE.LA/CUADRA // UNA/MITAD/1855

7.6 Br 28.0 ↑↑

References: Ek1098, F8263, W²2474, Sc1143. Struck in the USA by Scovill Manufacturing Co. See A2a. Common

A3 A. Ma./Merlano (script) / MITAD

? Ae 24 ↑↑

[◀1887] References: Ek1247, W¹1495, W²3378. The authors know of only one specimen, which is in a Bogota collection. The Merlano family operated businesses in both Cartagena and Morroa in the 1800s. This and the following token (A4) are probably attributable to Cartagena. Rare.



A4 A.M. MERLANO./1856 // MITAD

5.7 Ae 26.0 ↑↑

Reference: Ek1246? Struck by Scovill. Probably issued by a firm in Cartagena. Rare.



A5 ↗↑↗/ARJONA/↗↑↗/ ↗↑↗/MITAD/↗↑↗



2.9 Br 20.1 ↑↑

[◀1908] References: Ek1248, Ux3344. Reeded edge. Possibly issued by Angel M. Arjona, a merchant in Barranquilla in the 1870s. Scarce.

A6 A.V. // MITAD

3.0 Br 20.0 ↑↑

Reference: Ek1250. Possibly issued by Alejandro Villoria, who operated a distillery in Neiva, Tolima in the 1890s. This is based on the existence of a cuartillo token showing a distilling apparatus and very similar A.V. initials. An

alternative possibly is Aristides Voigt, a general merchant of Cartagena. Rare.

A7 A.A.V./COROZAL // MITAD

? ? ? ?

See page 27. Existence speculative.



B1 Star/B.C. // * /MITAD/ *

4.2 Br 22.2 ↑↓

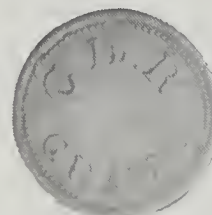
[◀1884] References: By2378, Ek1252, Ux3344, W²3373. Eklund, following Ulex, attributed this to "B. Caceres", which may or may not be correct. See also B1a (die variety) and B1b-d (countermarks). Common.



C1 CASTRO I Ca. ZAMBRANO. // MITAD

2.3 Br 18.9 ↑↑

References: Ek1235. Department of Bolivar. Rare.



C2 C.D.R / GUAMO // MITAD/1880

3.0 Br 20.5 ↑↑

Unpublished. Department of Bolivar? Rare.



C3 C.E./GERLEIN // MITAD

1.8 Br 19.2 ↑↑

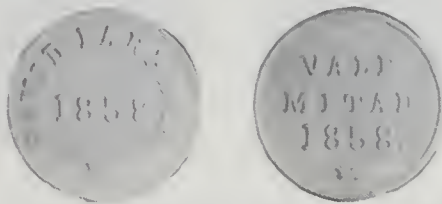
[◀1908] References: Ek1253, Ux3345. May be an error token, with E.C. being the correct initials (see E1). From the same source, but struck before E1, as evidenced by the closed

space between the A and D of MITAD on E1. Shares a common reverse die with E1; obverse letter punches are the same, but ornament punches are different. Plain border. Scarce.

C4 C.I. & Co / / MITAD

? ? ? ?

See page 27. Existence doubtful.



D1 DAVID BARRAZA./1858/ / VALE/MITAD./1858/

4.8 Ae 19.2 ?

References: Ek1329. Rare.



D2 D de M / / MITAD

2.8 Br 19.3 ↑↑

[1892] References: Ek1254, Ux3345, Sc1144, W²3377. Eklund attributed this token to D. de Martinez. The *Anuario del Comercio* of 1897 lists "D. Martinez" as proprietor of the principal store in Bucaramanga. Common.



D3 D.J. DE CASTRO./1858/ / VALE/MITAD./1858/

4.9 Cu 19.4 ↑↑

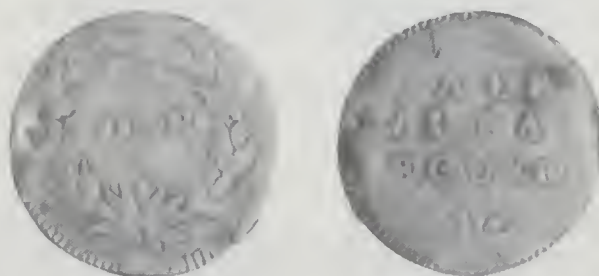
References: Ek1330, F9117. Probably issued by Diego J. de Castro of Barranquilla, who was prominent in the 1850s. Scarce.



D4 D P R / / VALE/MITAD

7.3 Cu 27.6 ↑↑

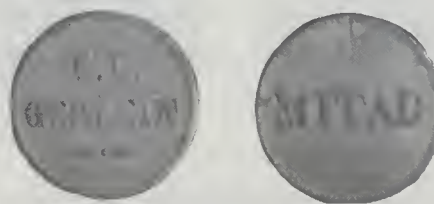
[ca 1850s] Reference: Ek1255. Common.



D5 D.R. in wreath / / VALE./MITAD./RECUERO./flower

2.9 Ae 26.9 ↑↓

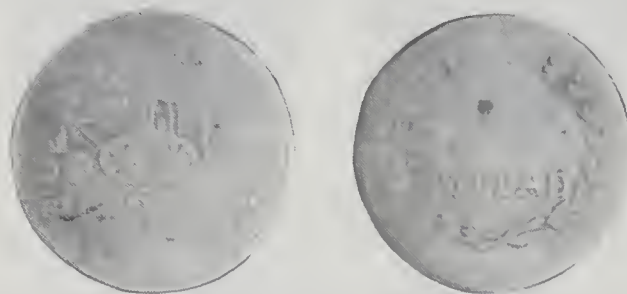
[ca 1850s] Unpublished (except by Ek1188 from Weyl as an overstrike on USA 1837 cents). The only known specimen (in the Smithsonian collection) was struck on an original planchet, but with cruder dies than those used for the D5a overstrike. Very rare.



E1 E.C./GERLEIN/ / MITAD

1.9 Br 19.1 ↑↑

[1887] References: Ek1078, W¹1913, W²2625. Probably issued by Eduardo C. Gerlein, a storekeeper in Barranquilla in the 1860s. Denticle border. See C3 above and E1a (counterstamp). Scarce.



E2 Locomotive/EL PROGRESO / / MITAD in wreath

4.3 Ae 27.8 ↑↓

[ca 1850s] Unpublished. The known specimen is in the Smithsonian collection. The issuer of this token has not been identified. One possibility is the newspaper "El Progreso" which was published in Cartagena in the mid-1800s. A more likely possibility is the street railway on Progreso in Baranquilla. Very rare.



- E3 E.P./COROZAL // ★/MITAD/★
 ? ? 22 ?
 References (listed erroneously as British Honduras): Remick (*Coins of the British World*), 3d Ed., p. 79); Format g (April 1980) Lot 1080. From Department of Sucre, Colombia. One specimen known — in an Australian collection. Probably from the Scovill Mint, and possibly issued by Ezequiel Perez, a general merchant in Corozal in the 1890s. See E3a (mule). Very rare.

Reference: Ek1306. Struck by Scovill. Often erroneously attributed to British Honduras, but actually from the Department of Sucre in Colombia. Common.



- F1 F.B/MALO (in script) / / MITAD
 3.0 Ae 24.2 ↑↑
 Unpublished. Possibly issued by Francisco Malo, a merchant in Popayan, Cauca, in the 1890s. Rare.



- E4 E.R.C./ / SANTANDER //
 /♦♦♦/MITAD/♦♦♦
 3.8 Br 23.1 ↑↓
 Unpublished. Scarce.



- F2 FERRAN/Hs / / ★/MITAD./★
 1.5 Br 17.8 ↑↑
 Unpublished. In the collection of one of the authors. Issued by the Ferran Brothers, merchants in the Plaza del Mercado in Barranquilla in the 1890s. Very rare.



- E5 ESPINOSA/ + /OLIER // VALE MITAD
 8.4 Ae 29.1 ↑↑
 [ca 1840s] Reference: Ek1108. The issuer is assumed to be a firm of Espinosa & Olier. See E5a (die variety). Scarce.





- F3 Star/F.R. / / ★/MITAD/★
 4.1 Ae 23.0 ↑↓
 [1879] References: Ek1256, Ux3345, F9183, Sc1145, W²3380. About 22,900 pieces struck in 1879 by the Heaton Mint. Note that there was a previous striking (F3a) by the Scovill Mint. Attributed by Eklund, following Ulex, to "F. Ramon," although this has not been confirmed. Common.



- E6 E.T.B./COROZAL // ★/MITAD/★
 3.6 Br 22.8 ↑↓






F4 F.U.S.//SANTANDER / /
/MITAD./

3.4 Br 22.4 ↑↓

Unpublished. Possibly struck in error, and replaced by the F5 token. Rare.



F5 F.W.S.//SANTANDER / /
/MITAD./

3.3 Br 22.4 ↑↓

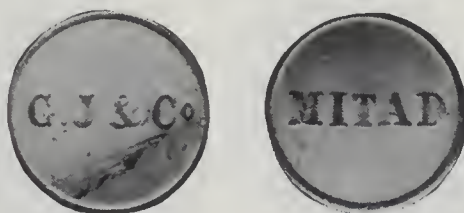
Unpublished. Issuer unidentified. Rare.



G1 G.&C.//SANTANDER / /
 /MITAD./

3.4 Br 22.8 ↑↓

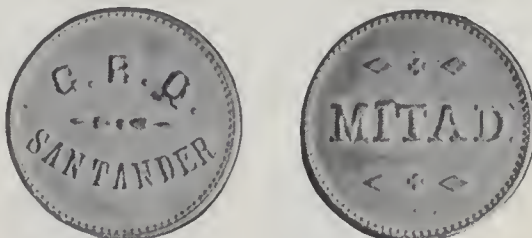
Unpublished. Some specimens appear to have reeded edges. All observed pieces exhibit much wear — probably because of very soft metal. See G1a and G1b (counterstamps). Common.






G2 G.J & CO / / MITAD

2.3 Br 20.0 ↑↑

[◀1908] References: Ek1257, Ux3346. Issuer possibly Guillermo Jones, a hardware merchant in Bucaramanga in the 1890s. See G2a (counterstamps). Common.



G3 G.R.Q.//SANTANDER / /
/MITAD./

3.5 Br 22.4 ↑↓

[◀1897] References: Ek1151, W²2699. Probably issued by Guillermo R. Quin, a prominent business man of Ocana, Department of Santander, whose interests included a distillery, cattle breeding, and a general store. Rare.



H1 HOYER.// / + / MITAD. / +

1.9 Br 18.2 ↑↓

Unpublished. Issuer possibly Crez Hoyer, a storekeeper in Barranquilla in the 1860-70 period. See H1a (metal variety). Rare.



H2 H. ROSA. / / MITAD

2.4 Cu 18.2 ↑↓

Unpublished. Issuer not identified; possibly from Barranquilla. Scarce.



I1 Star / I A M / star / SINCELEJO / /
 //MITAD/

3.0 Br 19.3 ↑↓

[◀1897] References: Ek1156, W²2700. Rare.



I2 ISLA / / MITAD

2.4 Cu 18.5 ↑↓

[◀1878] References: Ek1077, F8273, W²2590. Probably from Barranquilla. Scarce.

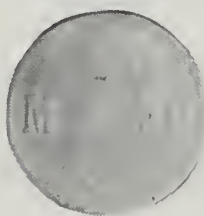




- J1 J. CHAPMAN. / * * / / + / MITAD. / +
2.0 Cu 18.1 ↑↓
[1897] References: Ek1258, W3374, Ux3344.
Issuer probably from Barranquilla. See J1a (die
variety) and J1b, c (counterstamps). Common.



- J2 J.D. / / * / MITAD / *
3.9 Ae 22.7 ↑↑
[1884] Reference: By2284. Struck by Scovill.
In the collection of one of the authors. Very rare.



- J3 J.D. in wreath / / MITAD
1.5 Br 19.6 ↑↑
Reference: Ek2254. Issuer not identified,
although it seems very clear that the issuer was
J.H.D. See J3a (die variety). Common.



- J4 J.J. DE L. / / MITAD
2.0 Br 19.7 ↑↑
[1908] References: Ek1259, Ux3346. Com-
mon.

- J5 J.M.A. / YUCAL / / MITAD / 1880
3.8 Cu 20.4 ↑↑
Unpublished. Rare.

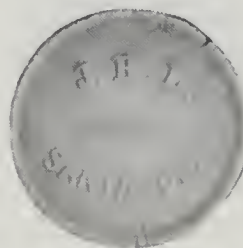


- J6 J.M. / GOMES / / MITAD
2.1 Br 18.1 ↑↑
[1908] References: Ek1260, Ux3345. Gomes, a
name frequently seen in Venezuela, is very rarely
seen in Colombia, where the usual form is
Gomez. The fact that there was a second issue
(see J6a) diminishes the likelihood of this being
an error, so it could possibly be Venezuelan. If
so, it is an exception to the rule. Rare.

- J7 JOSE D. MER / * / / VALE / MITAD / - * -
? Ae ? ?
See page 27. Name may be misspelled. Very
rare.



- J8 VALE MITAD / JOSE M. RVIZ /
/ MOMPOS / 1844 / / sunface
7.5 Ae 29.0 ↑↑
References: Ek1124, Betts 460. Scarce.



- J9 J.R.L. / / SANTANDER / / ♦ ♦ ♦ / MITAD. /
♦ ♦ ♦
3.9 Br 22.8 ↑↓
Unpublished. Probably issued by Jose R. Lemus,
who operated a distillery in Ocana, Santander in
the 1890s. Scarce.



- L1 ♦ ♦ ♦ / L.C. / - ♦ ♦ ♦ / / - ♦ ♦ ♦ / MITAD / - ♦ ♦ ♦
2.9 Br 20.7 ↑↑

Unpublished. Possibly from Ocaña, where Leon Carrascal was a general merchant in the 1890s. Other possibilities include Tolima and Cundinamarca. This is one of only three Mitad tokens known to these authors having a reeded edge. Scarce.

L2 LEHMANN / / MITAD

? ? ? ?

[1908] References: Ek1262, Ux3345. The authors have not seen this piece, but do not doubt its existence. Very Rare.



L3 LLAMAS/Hs / / ✱/MITAD./ ✱

1.5 Br 18.0 ↑↑

[1908] References: Ek1263, Ux3345. The Llamas brothers (possibly Rosendo C. and J. de la C. Llamas) operated a general store in Barranquilla in the 1890s. See L2a (die variety). Common.

L4 L./MERLANO/✱✱✱✱ / MITAD

2.7 Ae 24.0 ?

[1887] References: Ek1264, W¹1496, W²3379. Possible issuers include Merlano & Co. of Cartagena, and Luis M. Merlano of Since, Bolivar, both of whom were general merchants in the 1890s. Very Rare (a specimen is in the ANS collections).



M1 ✱✱✱✱/Ma DE LA C./ECHAVEZ/✱✱✱✱ / MITAD

3.1 Br 24.0 ↑↑

Unpublished. Note that the Bogota newspaper El Tiempo of 31 May 1984 recorded the death of Maria del Carmen Echavez in Cartagena, who may have been a descendent of the issuer of this token. Her grandfather was an Arjona, and her husband was a Vergara, both of which names are associated with MITAD tokens. Rare.



M2 M ANGULO / / MITAD

2.9 Br 19.3 ↑↓

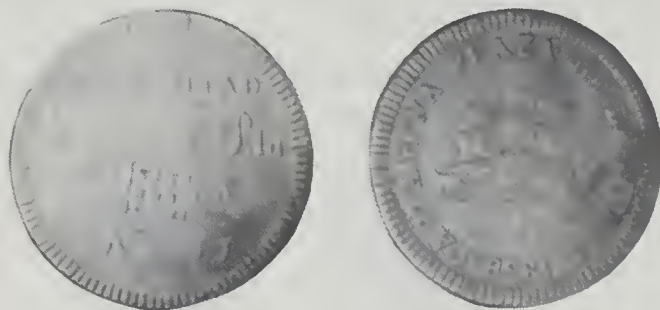
[1884] References: Ek1089 (Mangulo, Panama), Ek1265 (Callao, Peru), W¹1914, W²2595, Ux3345, By2380. Possibly issued by Manuel G. Angulo, a general merchant in Santa Marta, Magdalena in the 1890s — perhaps a descendent of the Manuel Angulo who issued M3 below. See M2a, b (die varieties). Common.



M3 VALE MITAD/MANUEL ANGULO/MA / / ESQUINA/DEL/cannon/VERDE

6.1 Ae 28.1 ↑↓

[ca 1850s] References: Ek1307, Ux3876. Possibly struck by Scovill. Manuel Angulo was a storekeeper in Barranquilla at the "Corner of the Green Cannon," where Paseo de Bolivar crosses Progreso, and where there still exists a green cannon commemorating a visit by Simon Bolivar in 1830. See M3a (overstrikes). Note that the broken V of VERDE suggests that these were struck after the overstruck pieces. Scarce.



M4 VALE MITAD/Manuel Ma Pla (script) / TIENDA/Nº 11 / / CARTAGENA PLAZA DE LA YERBA 1838 (around)/Ship

See page 27. May exist only as an overstrike, for which see M4a-c (overstrikes - scarce).



M5 ✱/✱ MD ✱/✱ / / ✱/MITAD/✱

3.7 Cu 22.9 ↑↓

[<1908] References: Ek1266, Ux3346. Possibly issued by Moises Diaz, a general merchant of Velez, Santander. Common.



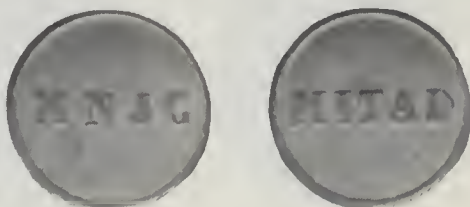
- M6 VALE MITAD/MEDRANO / / ship**
4.9 Ae 28.0 ↑↓
[ca 1850s] Unpublished. The known piece is in a New York collection. Possibly issued by a forebear of Jose D. Medrano, who operated a general store in Zaragoza, Antioquia in the 1890 s. See M6a (counterstamp). Very rare.



- M7 Star/M F/caduceus / / star/MITAD/ship; wreath both sides.**
4.5 Br 25.7 ↑↑
[ca 1850s] References: Ek1267. A specimen is in the ANS collections. Rare.



- M8 +/MIRANDA/+ / / +/MITAD/+**
2.0 Br 18.2 ↑↓
Unpublished. Persons named Miranda operated general stores in both Carmen and Palmito in the Department of Bolivar in the 1890s. Rare.



- M9 M N J G / / MITAD**
2.4 Br 19.8 ↑↑
Unpublished. Rare.



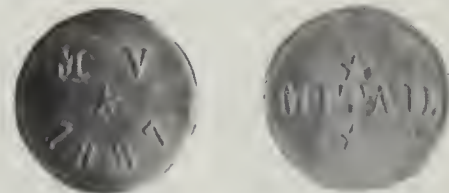
- M10 M.P. / / * /MITAD/ ***
4.2 Ae 22.9 ↑↓
[<1884] References: Ek1268, By2379. Possibly issued by M. Posada of Cartagena. Rare.



- M11 M.R / mortar & pestle / / MITAD**
5.8 Br 24.0 ↑↓
[<1878] References: Ek1270, F9184, Ux3346, By2375, W'3381. Struck by Scovill. Eklund, following Ulex, attributed this to M. Rojas, but it was possibly issued by Manuel Romanos who operated a general store in Carmen, Department of Bolivar in the 1890s. See M11a, b (metal varieties) and M11c (counterstamps). This type exists with both thin and thick planchets, the rare thin planchet variety weighing about 3.9 grams. Common.



- M12 M & V/beaker / / * /MITAD/ ***
3.9 Ae 22.9 ↑↓
[<1892] References: Ek1271, Ux3346, Sc1151. Eklund, mistaking Weyl, said issued by M & Veloz. See M12a (overstrike). Rare.



- M13 M V/star/1887 / / star/MITAD./star**
1.3 Br 18.1 ↑↑
[<1897] References: Ek1273, W'3384, Ux3346. Eklund, following Ulex and Weyl, said issued by

M. Veloz; the authors have been unable to find a basis for this. Scarce.



P1 / PEDRO / LAZA / GRAU. / // MITAD
3.1 Br 24.2 ↑↑

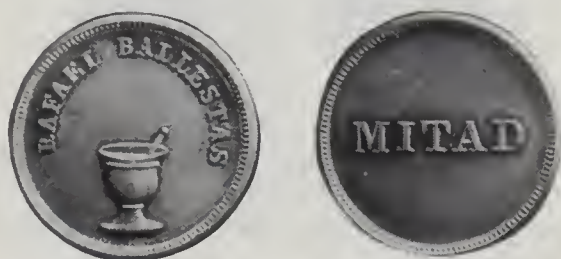
Unpublished. Possibly from Mompos, where Pedro Laza was an importer and Pedro Grau was a general merchant in the 1890s, but probably from Barranquilla, where a prominent merchant, Pedro Laza Grau, was President of the Constitutional Assembly of the State of Bolivar in 1852. Rare.



P2 PELLET. / // / MITAD. /
1.8 Cu 18.1 ↑↓
[1887] References: W¹1481. Probably from Barranquilla. Rare.



P3 Star / P.M.U. / // * / MITAD / *
4.6 Br 22.7 ↑↓
[1878] References: Ek1274, F9186, W²3383. Struck by Scovill. Eklund said issued by P.M. Urban, but this is questionable. Rare.



R1 RAFAEL BALLESTAS / mortar & pestle / / MITAD
6.8 Br 24.1 ↑↓

[1892] References: Ek1277, Ux3344, Sc1154, W²3372. Struck by Scovill. Believed issued by a Rafael Ballastas who operated a general store in Calamar, Bolivar, in the 1890s. See R1a, b (metal varieties). Common.



R2 R.B. / / MITAD
2.2 Ae 18.0 ↑↓

[1878] References: Ek1275, F9182, Ux3344, Sc1155. Struck by Scovill. Eklund said issued by Rafael Ballestas, but this has not been confirmed. Scarce.

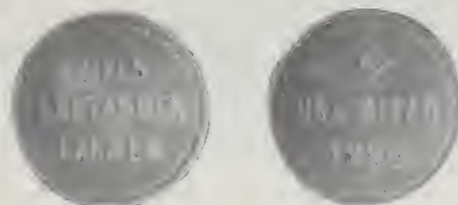


R3 R.E. / star / SANTANDER / // * / MITAD / *
4.0 Br 22.3 ↑↑
[1897] References: Ek1150, W²2698. Some specimens have been observed with reeded edges. Possibly issued by Rafael Espinosa, a general merchant of Natagaima, Tolima. See R3a (die variety with larger initials) and R3b-i (counterstamps). Common.



R4 / SANTANDER / CARMEN / / UNA / MITAD / 1872
1.9 Br 18.3 ↑↑

Reference: Barredo #783. Probably issued by the same Rives who issued R5. Possibly from El Carmen in Norte de Santander, which in the 1800s was still part of the Department of Santander. Scarce.



R5 RIVES/SANTANDER/CARMEN / /
 / UNA MITAD/1880

1.8 Br 19.4 ↑↑

Unpublished. See R4 above. Common.



S1 Star/S.A. / / ★/MITAD/★

4.4 Br 22.6 ↑↓

[1878] References: Ek1279, Ux3344, By2376 & 2535. Scarce.



S2 ★/S. ALANDETI/★ / / - - ★ - -
 /MITAD/cock

4.5 Ae 22.8 ↑↓

[1878] References: Ek1280, F9181, Ux3344, Sc1156, W'3371. Struck by Scovill. Possibly an error for S(imon) ALANDETE who at one time was a soap and candle maker in Cartagena, where the Alandete Brothers were merchants. This token is frequently found in the USA (usually in top condition), but rarely at all in South America, suggesting that it was refused by the person who ordered it because of the name error. Common.



S3 Hand & torch/SANTANDER / /
 Star/MITAD/1874

5.1 Br 22.7 ↑↑

References: Ek1149, Sc665, W'2697. This token is found with several different counterstamps. On it the word "Santander" is believed to be the name of the issuer rather than that of a place. See S3d (metal variety) and S3a-c (counterstamps). Common.



S4 Star/S.H. / / ★/MITAD/★

4.1 Ae 22.9 ↑↓

[1878] References: Ek1281, F9185, Ux3345, By2377, Sc1158, W'3376. Struck by Heaton in Birmingham. Eklund, following Ulex, says "S. Herrera," but it was possibly issued by Santiago Hernandez, a general merchant of Santa Marta, Magdalena. See S4a, b (die varieties) and S4c (mule). Common.



T1 Star/T.N. / / ★/MITAD/★

4.4 Br 23.0 ↑↓

Unpublished. Rare.



T2 T.N. / / MITAD

2.4 Br 19.7 ↑↑

Unpublished. Speculatively a later issue by the issuer of T1 above. See T2a (counterstamp). Rare.



T3 TRINIDAD PARRA DE OROZCO & COM-
 PANIA around TPdeOC / /
 BUCARAMANGA. SANTANDER around
 M(ITAD??)

2.0 Ae 17.5 ↑↑

See page 35. Reference: Ek1152. Common, but speculative as to whether it is actually a MITAD token.

U1 URREGO / / MITAD

? Br 18 ↑↑

[1897] References: Ek1159, W²2701. The only specimens known to these authors reside in Barranquilla and Caracas collections. Rare.



(Ek1337), issued by Francisco Vergara, which bears a branch of a coffee bush, suggesting a coffee plantation. Scarce.

II – Possible but Unconfirmed MITAD Token Types

No. Description Gms Metal mm

A7 A.A.V./COROZAL / / MITAD

? ? 23

Speculative. This possibility is based on the existence of a mule, listed in Eklund as No. 1305, having the above obverse and an E.P./COROZAL reverse identical with the obverse of the E3 mitad token. See E3a (mules).

C4 C.I. & Co / / MITAD

? Cu ?

Reference: Garriga No. C-5300-01. The authors have not seen this token, and believe it possible that its listing in several catalogs may be the result of a confusion with the G2 (G. J & Co) token.

J7 JOSE D. MER/★ / / VALE/MITAD/-★-

? Ae 18

Reference: Ek2257, where the name was shown as "JOSE D. MER(tens)" and the piece was attributed to Trujillo, Peru. The authors have not seen this piece, but consider it possible that Eklund's description is in error and that the token was actually issued with the name JOSE de MIER, in which case it could be from the city of Barranquilla, or possibly Santa Marta where M.J. de Mier operated a distillery. Also, the diameter shown by Eklund may be wrong; 28mm seems more likely. Very rare.

M4 VALE MITAD/Manuel Ma Pla
(script)/TIENDA/No 11 / / CARTAGENA
PLAZA DE LA YERBA 1838 (around)/Ship
? ? ?

[ca 1840s] References: Ek1103, Ux2709, F8199. All observed specimens were overstruck (see M4a-d) on a variety of American Hard Times tokens, so the existence of this type on a plain planchet is speculative — and doubtful. Note that this and the M3 token are the only ones with fully identified locations, this one being Store No. 11 at the Plaza de la Yerba [Hierba — where grass or hay for animals was sold], now the Plaza del Ecuador, in Cartagena.

T3 TRINIDAD PARRA DE OROZCO &
COMPANIA around TPdeOC / /
BYCARAMANGA. SANTANDER. around
M(ITAD??)

2.0 Ae 17.5

Reference: Ek1152. This token was issued by a dairy in Bucaramanga. It is thought possible that the large M on the reverse may mean MITAD. Common.

V1 VELEZ/MATOS / / VALE MITAD

7.6 Ae 29.2 ↑↓

[ca 1850s] References: Ek1160, F8272, Ne35717, W²2702. It has not been determined which, if either, of the names on this token is a place name. There is a town of Velez in Santander, and there was a merchant named Aristides Matos in Tula, Bolivar, but both may be irrelevant as far as this token is concerned. It may not be entirely coincidental that there was a general store in the town of Velez operated by Belen Mateus. See V1a-d (overstrikes). Note that the condition of the denticles on these original planchet pieces suggests that they were struck after the overstruck pieces, and their different orientation suggests a significant lapse of time between striking. Common.



V2 ⚡/VENGOECHEA/⚡ / / ★/MITAD/★

2.9 Br 18.3 ↑↑

[1878] References: Ek1283 & 1398, Ux3346, F9187, and W²3436. Struck by Scovill. Possibly Vengoechea & Co., general merchants of Barranquilla. Rare.



V3 ⚡/VERGARA/⚡ / / ★/MITAD/★

2.7 Br 18.2 ↑↑

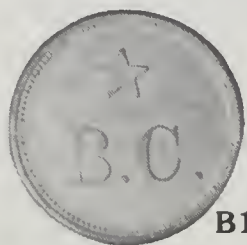
Reference: Ek1282. Struck by Scovill. Possibly issued from either Corozal or Santander (Cauca). Note that there is a token dated 1863

III – Catalog of MITAD Token Varieties

1. Die Varieties.

The descriptions below are intended to include sufficient distinctions so that the collector with only one variety can easily determine exactly which variety it is.

No. Description Gms Metal mm



B1



B1a

B1 B.C.

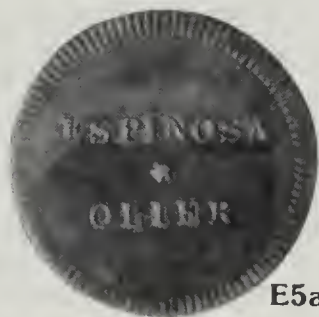
a. Die variety on larger flan:

4.5 Br 22.7 ↑↓

The obverse star of B1a is offset slightly to the right of the period after the B of B.C.; it is directly above the period on B1. Diameter of B1 is smaller. The same letter punches were used on both, but the dies are different. Both are probably from the same mint, but the different flan size suggests they were made at different times.



E5



E5a

E5 ESPINOSA ★ OLIER

a. Die variety with different ornament:

6.9 Ae 29.0 ↑↓

This variety is distinguished from E5 by different letter spacing and a different vertical alignment of letters on the obverse. The diagnostic characteristic of E5a is the small 6-point star between ESPINOSA and OLIER, in place of the quatrefoil on E5. Also, the O of OLIER is directly under the S on E5a, and noticeably offset on E5. The two reverses are identical. A likely possibility is that the obverse die broke before the single order was completed.



F3



F3a

F3 F.R.

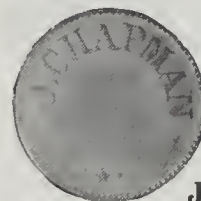
a. Die & metal variety on smaller flan:

4.2 Br 22.4 ↑↓

Struck by the Scovill Mint in Waterbury, Conn., U.S.A. Cinquefoil ornaments of F3a have smoothly rounded petals; those of F3 are erose. The obverse star of F3a has a raised rope border, rather than a solid raised border as on F3.



J1



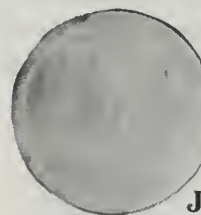
J1a

J1 J. CHAPMAN

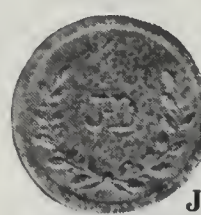
a. Die & metal variety without dot:

2.4 Br 18.1 ↑↓

This variety has no period after CHAPMAN, unlike the J1 token. Also, the bottom serifs of P and M are spaced apart on the J1a obverse; they run together on the J1. The style is the same, but the letter punches and ornaments are different, suggesting that the variety was struck at a different time in the same or perhaps a different shop.



J3



J3a

J3 J.D

a. Die variety with smaller letters:

1.5 Br 19.6 ↑↑

On the laurel wreath, the upper berry of the first pair right of center is stemless; the two berries of the third pair to right are very indistinct on J3a.



J6



J6a

J6 J.M GOMES

a. Die variety with added ornaments:

1.9 Ae 18.1 ↑↑

Obverses and reverses are identical, except that five-pointed stars have been added above and below the T of MITAD on J6a.



L3



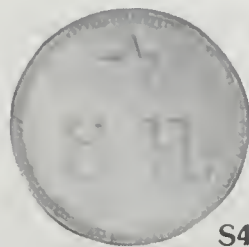
L3a

L3 LLAMAS Hs

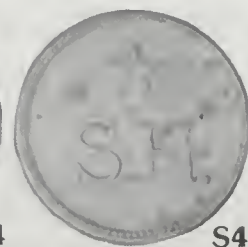
- a. Die variety with larger MITAD:

1.4 Br 17.5 ↑↑

The **M** and **[.]** of **MITAD**. almost touch the raised border on L3a, but are spaced well inside the border on L3. Also, the **s** of **Hs** is slightly above the **H** on L3 and slightly below on L3a. Different letter and ornament punches were used for L3 and L3a.



S4



S4a



S4b

S4 Star/S.H.

- a. Die & metal variety with plain star:

5.1 Br 22.9 ↑↓

Source not known. The serifs of the **A** and **D** on the reverse of S4a are almost (but not quite) touching; They are clearly separated on S4 and S4b.

- b. Die & metal variety with stippled star:

5.3 Br 22.7 ↑↓

Struck by the Scovill Mint. Cinquefoils of S4b have smoothly rounded petals. Those of S4 and S4a are erose.

2. Metal Varieties.

Gms Metal mm

M2 M ANGULO

- a. Die variety with medal orientation:

2.6 Br 18.8 ↑↑

This variety has the smallest spacing between **M** and **ANGULO**, which may be why the issuer is sometimes thought to be Mangulo. It was made with different letter punches from those used on either M2 or M2b.

- b. Die variety on smaller flan (than M2):

2.7 Br 18.8 ↑↓

The letters of M2b are definitely rounded; those of M2 have flat surfaces. The cross-bar of the **A** of **MITAD** angles noticeably upward (from left to right) on M2b. Both M2 and M2b have coin orientation.



R3



R3a

R3 R.E. SANTANDER

- a. Die variety with larger letters:

4.5 Br 22.4 ↑↑

The petals of the cinquefoil ornaments on the reverse of R3a are erose; those on R3 are smoothly rounded. R3a has a larger **R.E.**, all letters and the star are from different punches, and it is on a larger flan. It was probably made by a different minter and at a different (possibly earlier) time.

A2 AM DE LA CUADRA

- a. Metal variety struck in bronze

7.6 Ae 27.4 ↑↑

This is probably a specimen strike, made with the A2 dies by Scovill. A copper-nickel variety may exist.

H1 HOYER.

- a. Metal variety struck in copper:

1.7 Cu 18.2 ↑↓

This variety was struck with the H1 dies, probably at the same time and possibly as a specimen strike.

M11 M.R

- a. Metal variety in bronze:

5.9 Ae 24.0 ↑↓

- b. Metal variety in copper-nickel:

5.8 CN 24.1 ↑↓

These are probably specimen strikes, made with the M11 dies by Scovill.

R1 RAFAEL BALLESTAS

- a. Metal variety in bronze

? Ae 24 ?

- b. Metal variety in copper-nickel:

? CN 24 ?

These are probably specimen strikes, made with the R1 dies by Scovill.

S3 SANTANDER

- a. Metal variety in bronze:

6.1 Ae 23.1 ↑↓

Based on die and strike characteristics, the authors suspect that this token was produced by Scovill, in which case there is likely to also be a copper-nickel specimen strike extant.

V3 VERGARA

- a. Metal variety in bronze:

? Ae ? ?

This is probably a specimen strike, made with the V3 dies by Scovill.

3. Mules.

E3 E. P./COROZAL / / A.A. V./COROZAL

a. E3 obv. muled with unidentified token:

2.8 Cu 22.6 ↑↓

This is a muling of the obverse of E3 with the obverse of an unidentified token tentatively listed herein as A8 (see page 27). The fabric of the two sides suggests that if indeed there were two tokens, they were made in the same shop at the same time.

S4 Star/S.H. / / +CHATLAPORE + SYLHET

c. S4 obverse muled with tea token obv.:

4.1 Br 23.2 ↑↓

This piece is a muling of the obverse of S4 with the obverse of an Assam tea plantation token (Pridmore 20) produced by the Birmingham Mint in 1886.

4. Overstrikes.²⁴

Gms Metal mm

D5 D.R., overstruck on:

a. 1837 U.S. Cent.

10.5 Cu 29.5 ↗

Reference: Ek1188 from Weyl³. Very rare (in Smithsonian collections).

M3 MANUEL ANGULO, overstruck on:

a. Low 103 Hard Times token

11.0 Ae 29.4 ↗

[ca 1840s] Struck with the same dies that were later used for the M3 token; the bottom serifs of the M and T of MITAD and M of MANGULO are diagnostic. Low 103 was originally produced by R&W Robinson of Attleboro, Mass., USA. Scarce.

M4 Manuel Ma Pla, overstruck on:

a. Low 58 HTT (TAMS article)

? Ae 29 ?

b. Low 95 HTT (ANS collections)

? Ae 29 ?

c. Low 97 HTT (Private collection)

8.8 Ae 29.2 ↗

[ca 1840s] All were struck with the same pair of dies. No specimen struck on an original planchet has been observed. All of the above Hard Times Tokens are said to have been struck by the Scovill Mint. Specific overstrikes are rare.

M12 M & V, overstruck on:

a. 1858 U.S. Cent

4.7 CN 20 ?

Reference Ek1272. Not observed by these authors. This may have been a trial strike. Very rare.

V1 VELEZ MATOS, overstruck on:

a. Low 20 HTT

10.8 Ae 29.4

b. Low 98 HTT

10.7 Ae 29.7

c. Low 110 or 111 HTT

8.7 Ae 29.1

d. Low 33 HTT

7.5 Ae 28.6

[ca 1840s] All were struck from the same pair of dies that were later used for the V1 token. Extra metal on the top left of the Z of VELEZ is diagnostic for the obverse, and the position of VALE MITAD relative to the denticles for the reverse. Scovill is said to have struck the Low 110 and 33 Hard Times Tokens. The total issue is common; individual overstrikes are scarce to rare.

5. Counterstamps.

B1. B.C.;

b. Obverse counterstamp: M.T. (on B1a)

4.5 Br 22.7

c. Obverse counterstamp: M C

? Br 23

d. Reverse counterstamp: c (on B1)

3.7 Br 22.3

E1 E.C. GERLEIN:

a. Reverse counterstamp: 2

1.7 Br 19.1

G1 G. & C. SANTANDER:

a. Obverse counterstamp: ~

3.3 Br 22.6

b. Reverse counterstamp: G

3.4 Br 22.8

This reverse has been planed flat. This counterstamp is almost identical with that of G3a below. Both may have been "pocket pieces."

G2 G. J & Co:

a1. Obverse counterstamp: J J J

2.3 Br 20.1

a2. Same but rotated 225° J J J

? ? ?

a3. Same but on reverse. J J J

? ? ?

G3 G.R.Q. SANTANDER:

a. Rx (planed flat) ctsp: G

? Br 22.4

J1 J. CHAPMAN:

b. Obverse counterstamp: B (on J1a)

2.1 Br 18.0

c. Obverse counterstamp: TR/TR

? ? 18.1







M6 MEDRANO:

a. Obverse counterstamp: RM


4.9 Ae 28.0

(in cartouche)

²⁴Many of these overstrikes were described and illustrated in an excellent article by Elwin C. Leslie in the *TAMS Journal* of August, 1973, pages 132 to 135.

- M11 M.R:**
 c. Obverse counterstamp:  5.6 Cu 24.0
 Note: This counterstamp is on the M11a variety.
- R3 R.E. SANTANDER:**
 b1. Obverse counterstamp:  3.7 Br 22.3
 b2. Same but rotated 90°.  3.9 Br 22.3
 b3. Same but rotated 180°.  3.9 Br 22.3
 c. Obv ctsp:  & Rev ctsp: GJ 3.8 Br 22.3
 d1. Reverse counterstamp: GJ 4.0 Br 22.3
 e. Reverse counterstamp: GJ, Boot 3.8 Br 22.3
 f. Reverse counterstamp:  3.7 Br 22.3
 g. Reverse counterstamp: FM, GJ ? Br 22.3
- Note: All of the above are on the R3 variety; none have been observed on R3a.

- R5. RIVES SANTANDER CARMEN:**
 a. Reverse counterstamp: 14.8mm circle. ? Br 19.4

- S3 SANTANDER:**
 b. Reverse counterstamp: MO 4.5 Br 22.7
 c. Obverse counterstamp: JG 5.0 Br 22.6
 d. Reverse counterstamp:  ? Br 22
 e. Reverse counterstamp: GJ, GJ 5.1 Br 22.7
 f. Reverse counterstamp: A, GJ ? Br 22.7

Note: the letter punches used for the S3e counterstamp are identical with those used for the GJ on R3d1 above.

- T2 T.N.:**
 a. Obverse counterstamp: Bi V 2.3 Br 19.6

- V1 VELEZ MATOS:** ? Br 29
 e. Incused counterstamps on V1 (not an overstrike):
 Obv: FAVR in center.
 Rev: FAVR twice and six hallmarks.

IV – Doubtful MITAD Token Types

- X1 A.M. / / MITAD/1856**
 Reference: Ek1246. Probably an error listing, in which the word “MERLANO” was inadvertently omitted. The correct listing should likely have been “A.M. MERLANO” (see A4).

- X2 AMERICAN COFFEE CORPORATION / / UNA MITAD**
 Reference: J.A. Schiaffino, *Las Fichas Peruanas* (Lima: 1979), No. 226. Listed as a MITAD token in error. The actual inscription is “VALE POR ESCOGER UNA UNIDAD,” or “Voucher for Picking One Unit (of Coffee).”
- X3 A.S. / / MITAD**
 References: Ek1249, F8032, Ux3346. Eklund probably copied the erroneous Ulex listing. This may refer to the uniface token listed by Fonrobert as No. 8032, described as “SENA. 1/2 REAL (around) A.S./star,” and attributed by Fonrobert to the city of Sena in Venezuela (sic)!
- X4 AYONA / / MITAD**
 References: Ek1251 from Ux3344. Probably an error in Ulex, where it should have read “AR-JONA,” which was not otherwise listed by Ulex (see A5).
- X5 C.L. & Co. / / MITAD**
 Reference: Enrique Lopez Barredo, *Monedas Venezolanas 1802-1982*, 2nd edition, No. 267. In extracting from the Owen list of the personal collection of Sr. G. Garriga, Sr. Lopez inadvertently entered the above, instead of the listed C.I. & Co entry, itself possibly a mistake for the G. J. & Co token (see C3 and G2).
- X6 JAM / / MITAD**
 References: Ek1156 from W²700. An error by Eklund in copying from the Weyl catalog. Eklund attributed this piece to Sincelejo, which he could only have done based on the legend of the token as shown in Weyl. The correct listing is I.A.M. (see I1).
- X7 JUAN LAPEYRE / / “MITAD 1863”**
 References: Ek1261 from Betts sale by Low (1/11/1898). Erroneously listed as a MITAD by both Low and Eklund. The actual denomination is “1/2” (real). See Schiaffino, 1984, Nos. 746 & 747.
- X8 RIVES SANTANDER CARMEN / / MITAD 1872**
 References: Lopez, *Monedas Venezolanas 1802-1982*, No. 783, and Garriga No. R-0800-01. The correct listing is “R” instead of “RIVES” (see R4).



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